

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PALERM 00366 051039Z  
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E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: OREP (RYAN, LEO J.), IT  
SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE OF CODEL RYAN VISIT

1. LOCAL PRESS COVERAGE OF MARCH 28-30 TAORMINA MEETING BETWEEN EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION LED BY REP. LEO RYAN HAS BEEN GENEROUS AND POSITIVE. LOCAL PRESS ALSO GAVE FAVORABLE COVERAGE TO CODEL'S MARCH 31 MEETING WITH SICILIAN REGIONAL LEADERS IN PALERMO.

2. ONLY DEVIATION FROM ABOVE PATTERN CAME IN PALERMO'S PCI-LINING DAILY "L'ORA" WHOSE TREATMENT OF CONGRESSMAN RYAN'S MARCH 29 TAORMINA PRESS CONFERENCE IS OFFERED IN PART AS SYMPTOMATIC BOTH OF PAPER'S GENERAL COVERAGE US-EUROPEAN MEETING AND CONTINUING PCI PETULANCE OVER U.S. POSITION-TAKING ON PARTY'S ROLE IN ITALY. WHEN ASKED WHAT WAS NEW IN THE U.S.-EUROPEAN RELATIONSHIP, L'ORA REPORTS CONGRESSMAN RYAN REPLIED (OUR INFORMAL TRANSLATION): "NOTHING NEW, IN SUBSTANCE. OUR CONCERNS HAVE MAINLY TO DO WITH EURO-COMMUNISM. IN AMERICA WE BELIEVE THAT EACH COUNTRY SHOULD DETERMINE ITS OWN FUTURE THROUGH ELECTIONS. WHEN THE FRENCH AND ITALIAN PEOPLE VOTE FOR COMMUNIST PARTIES, THEY DO CREATE PROBLEMS. FIRST A MILITARY PROBLEM, AND SECOND A POLITICAL PROBLEM. THE MILITARY PROBLEM IS OBVIOUS. FOR INSTANCE, THERE ARE 14,000 SOVIET THANKS WHICH FACE THE WEST IN EASTERN EUROPE. THE UNITED STATES INTENDS TO REACT TO THIS. THE SECOND IS A POLITICAL PROBLEM.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 PALERM 00366 051039Z

AMERICANS ARE HIGHLY SKEPTICAL WHEN TOLD THAT A COMMUNIST PARTY WHICH COMES TO POWER BY REGULAR ELECTIONS WILL THEN STEP DOWN IF VOTED OUT IN A SUBSEQUENT ELECTION. ON THE OTHER HEND, AS FAR AS EUROPE IS CONCERNED, BOTH THE DEMOCRATIC ADMINISTRATION AND THE REPUBLICANS SHARE THE SAME OPINIONS, I.E., COMMUNISTS WILL NOT RENOUNCE POWER ONCE THEY HAVE ACHIEVED IT."....."WE HAVE EASTERN EUROPE AS A CASE IN POINT. AMERICANS BELIEVE THAT IF COMMUNIST

PARTIES WERE TO ENTER GOVERNMENT, THEY WOULD NEVER LEAVE POWER". WHEN ASKED WHAT THE U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION WAS ASKING OF THE EUROPEANS, REP. RYAN REPLIED:  
"WE ARE NOT SEEKING A NEW RELATIONSHIP. THE ISSUE IS ABOUT MAINTAINING THESE CONTACTS. RATHER THAN ABOUT NOVELTIES, I'D RATHER TALK OF NEW ELEMENTS: FOR INSTANCE, HUMAN RIGHTS, ENERGY AND THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY. WHAT I REALLY WISH TO STRESS -- WHICH IS IMPORTANT TO US -- IS THAT THE UNITED STATES REMAIN CLOSE AND FRIENDLY TO EUROPE".

3. IN EDITORIAL COMMENTARY ENTITLED "THE SENATOR'S (SIC) PHILOSOPHY", L'ORA MADE THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS ON ABOVE REMARKS BY REP. RYAN:

"PEOPLE CAN VOTE FOR WHOM THEY PLEASE, BUT IF THEY VOTE FOR THOSE WE DO NOT LIKE, THEY SHOULD BE DENIED THEIR RIGHTS. THIS IS U.S. SENATOR RYAN'S "PUBLIK PHILOSOPHY". (COMMENT: THE "K" IS DOUBTLESS INTENTIONAL SINCE PARTY MEDIA AND PROPAGANDA OFFERINGS FREQUENTLY DEPLOY K-WORDS AS GERMANOID AND THEREFORE SINISTER). IN ONE WORD, IT IS BLACKMAIL. THE SAME BLACKMAIL WHOSE NAME WAS "COLD WAR" IN THE 50'S, ALONG WITH ITS OBSCENE COUNT OF THANKS AND NUCLEAR WARHEADS. HAS NOTHING CHANGED SINCE THEN IN AMERICA? SINCE SENATOR RYAN TALKS ABOUT AND COUNTS TANKS SO LIGHTLY, IT SEEMS THAT THE DOCTRINE OF BLACKMAIL STILL HAS FOLLOWERS IN CERTAIN POWER SECTORS IN THE UNITED STATES. EVEN THOUGH WE MUST ADMIT THAT, AT TIMES AND FROM OTHER SECTORS, WE GET LESS RIGID SIGNALS. HOWEVER, THINGS HAVE CERATINLY CHANGED IN EUROPE -- ESPECIALLY IN UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 PALERM 00366 051039Z

FRANCE AND ITALY. HERE FEWER AND FEWER PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT ONCE IN POWER THE COMMUNISTS WOULD HANG ON TO IT AS THE IVY ON THE WALL, A CLINGING COMPLEX WHICH HAS DISTURBED THE SLEEP OF ALL THE "SENATORS RYAN". ON THE CONTRARY, MANY ARE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN IN ITALY THAT A POLITICAL PARTY LIKE THE ONE THE SENATOR TALKS ABOUT DOES EXISTS. ITS NAME IS THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY."

4. DURING MARCH 31 CEREMONIES IN PALERMO. WE PASSED TO REP. MARTIN OF CODEL COPIES OF LOCAL PRESS COVERAGE, INCLUDING THE ABOVE, WHICH HAD APPEARED TO THAT POINT. FOR WHATEVER USE IT MIGHT BE TO CODEL, WE ARE POUCHING TO EUR/WE-MCKINLEY COPIES OF SUBSEQUENT COVERAGE. COLLINS

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